

Today's News - Thursday, June 12, 2014

- Rybczynski ruminates most eloquently about whether the globalization of architecture is a good thing - or not: it may be "exciting" to import starchitects who are "much too different from each other to make all places look the same - but they do make places all look different in the same way. Which is almost as bad" (better to nurture "locatects").
- Pearman, as many others, was brought to tears re: news of the Glasgow School of Art fire: "The horror from the world's architecture community was real and immediate," followed by "something else: cautious optimism that the masterpiece could be restored." + An archive of BBC Arts clips about Mackintosh's masterpiece.
- Rosenbaum parses the Frick Collection's proposed expansion: "there's no question that it's long overdue and sorely needed," but is the design deferential or "Beaux Arts on Botox"?
- Brussat x 2: though the devil will be in the details, the Frick's plan "seems downright lovely," and "should provide a stellar example of what real architecture means by 'addition.'"
- He's much less sanguine about what came out of last week's CNU conference: "the ramparts of New Urbanism have been breached - New Urbanists be warned: The modernists are on the march."
- Hume cheers the "pop-up phenomenon" happening around Toronto in various guises that "can play an important role when we reimagine the urban fabric," and "illustrates the growing allure of urban transience."
- King reports that L.A. has thrown its hat in the ring to lure George Lucas's museum away from San Francisco (and Chicago) because "the city of storytellers" makes it a perfect fit.
- Kamin continues with the Trump sign saga in Chicago: the mayor has given it "thumbs down," which "sets up a confrontation between two towering figures with no small egos" (are we having fun yet?!?).
- Meanwhile, SOM is transforming a former window factory on Chicago's Goose Island into a futuristic Digital Lab for Manufacturing to goose manufacturing forward that will "evoke more of a feeling of a startup than a manufacturing plant."
- Megabudka wins the international competition for a Russian Culture & Education Center for Butovo Park in Moscow: the design "is a sort of local theme park, composed of a reinterpretation with a modern twist of traditional suburban elements - planned to be replicated in other regions as well."
- Bernstein cheers Geller's once-endangered "box-kite-like icon of midcentury modernism" moved to new digs and restored by COOKFOX.
- Great Q&A with Cesal, Architecture for Humanity's new executive director, re: "what's next for AfH, and his beef with the word 'resilience.'"
- A look at how "bold new designs are transforming previously bland bridges into incredible new landmarks."
- Thompson offers his take on "the five greatest collaborations between architect and landscape architect."
- Next up in crowdsourcing architectural services: Architizer launches FindAnArchitect.com: "It is time to tell the world about the work that we do and make it easy for them to find and hire us" (see ANN's Arcbazar feature, too).
- Good reasons to be in Dallas and Grand Rapids next week: a conference explores "a whole new economy based on creativity and innovation slowly taking shape," and the Michigan Modern: Design that Shaped America Symposium.
- Call for entries: Sylvia Harris Citizen Design Award: Design Ignites Change; \$10,000 for social impact design project that enhances public life.

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The Franchising of Architecture: As leading architects race to put their visual signatures on every nook and cranny of the world...is globalization really such a good thing: ...in the long run it's wiser to nurture local talent; instead of starchitects, locatects...great imports are much too different from each other to make all places look the same - but they do make places all look different in the same way. Which is almost as bad. By Witold Rybczynski -- Renzo Piano; Rem Koolhaas; Zaha Hadid; Frank Gehry; Robert A. M. Stern; Norman Foster; Moshe Safdie [images] - New York Times T Magazine

Restoration is Definite for Glasgow School of Art: The horror from the world's architecture community was real and immediate. Many, including me, were in tears...What was still a cultural disaster of international proportions had also turned into something else: cautious optimism that the masterpiece could be restored. By Hugh Pearman -- Charles Rennie Mackintosh - Architectural Record

Mackintosh's Masterpiece: A clean-up operation is in full swing after the Glasgow School of Art was devastated by a fire on 23 May. Here, BBC Arts presents a selection of archive clips about Charles Rennie Mackintosh's iconic building. [images, videos] - BBC

Beaux Arts on Botox: The Frick Collection's Planned Expansion: ...treatment of the landmark Carrère & Hastings building...is sure to receive close scrutiny...the architects opted to slavishly ape the material and detailing of the century-old building...Deference is one thing; dutifully copying the superannuated Beaux-Arts vocabulary is another...there's no question that it's long overdue and sorely needed... By Lee Rosenbaum -- Davis Brody Bond [images] - ArtsJournal

The Frick Collection's future: ...newly proposed addition seems to be about the best one could hope for. So far, though the devil is in the details, it seems downright lovely...should provide a stellar example of what real architecture means by "addition." By David Brussat -- Carrere & Hastings; John Russell Pope; John Barrington Bayley; Davis Brody Bond - Architecture Here and There

Modernism invades New Urbanism: Last week the CNU/Congress for the New Urbanism met in Buffalo. It seems the ramparts have been breached...Panel discussions seemed to make a fetish of being open to modernism..."New Urbanism has been divorced from Traditional Architecture. Kaput, the marriage is over"...New Urbanists be warned: The modernists are on the march. By David Brussat -- Andrés Duany; David Baker; Jeff Speck; Lynn Richards; David Rau [images] - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Temporary Toronto's lasting results: Interim uses for city sites can play an important role when we reimagine the urban fabric...even privately owned property scheduled for redevelopment can serve other purposes, if only for two or three years...the whole pop-up phenomenon illustrates the growing allure of urban transience. By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

Los Angeles joins fight for Lucas museum: also has a potential site. It's the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena...the city is prepared to tear down the 55-year-old facility if Lucas wants..."It feels right and natural to the mayor that Lucas and Hobson should locate their museum in Los Angeles, the city of storytellers" By John King - San Francisco Chronicle

Sign points to Emanuel, Trump faceoff: ...Mayor Rahm Emanuel is ready to pass judgment. Thumbs down. "The mayor thinks the sign is awful"...sets up a confrontation between two towering figures with no small egos...the brouhaha...may seem overblown in a city with many more serious problems...But Chicago takes its architecture and public spaces seriously. By Blair Kamin -- Adrian Smith - Chicago Tribune

The future is now for digital lab: Construction will start this summer on remaking a former window plant on Goose Island into a futuristic facility [Digital Lab for Manufacturing]...key to pushing manufacturing forward in the region and the country...environment should evoke more of a feeling of a startup than a manufacturing plant... -- Brian Lee/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) [image] - Chicago Tribune

Megabudka with "Russian Character": ...international architectural competition announced by Morton Group to develop the concept of a Russian Culture & Education Center for the Butovo Park...distinguishing feature...about 80% of the territory is given for public areas and only 20% for development. residential district...the design is planned to be replicated in other regions as well... [images]- Architectural Council of Moscow / Archcouncil of Moscow

Andrew Geller's Double Diamonds Get a New Setting: COOKFOX Architects moved and restored the Pearlroth House, a box-kite-like icon of midcentury modernism. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Jake Gorst [slide show]- Architectural Record

Newsmaker: Eric Cesal: ...new executive director of Architecture for Humanity...after years of seeing crises up close...began to grasp that when they arrive at a disaster, they're already too late..."Philosophically, we've come to a point where we cannot separate our responsibility of responding to a crisis from our responsibility of preventing it"...On the phone from Kigali, Rwanda...he discussed the changing role of the architect, what's next for AfH, and his beef with the word "resilience." - Architectural Record

The Next Big Thing: the beauty of bridges: Bold new designs are transforming previously bland bridges into incredible new landmarks. -- Thomas Heatherwick; OMA; Santiago Calatrava; Next Architects ; Gustave Eiffel; Pedro Bandeira/Pedro Nuno Ramalho [images]- Telegraph (UK)

The five greatest collaborations between architect and landscape architect. By Ian Thompson, the author of a new book, "Landscape Architecture: A Very Short Introduction"... -- Frederick Law Olmsted/Calvert Vaux; Gertrude Jekyll /Edwin Lutyens; Roberto Burle Marx/Lucia Costa/Oscar Niemeyer; Dan Kiley/Eero Saarinen; James Corner/Diller Scofidio + Renfro - BD/Building Design (UK)

Announcing the Launch of FindAnArchitect.com: It is time to tell the world about the work that we do and make it easy for them to find and hire us. By Marc Kushner- Architizer

Creative Age Cities: According to the New Cities Foundation..."Over the next decade, some \$250 billion will be invested in the creation of new cultural districts"...a whole new economy based...on knowledge or more precisely creativity and innovation is slowly taking shape. What makes people creative and innovative however, is still being debated...'Re-imagining Cities: Transforming the 21st Century Metropolis,' June 17 - 19, Dallas Texas -- Global Culture Districts Network- Huffington Post

Michigan Modern: Design that Shaped America Symposium: Held in partnership with the Kendall College of Art and Design, Grand Rapids, MI, June 19 - 21 - Michigan State Historic Preservation Office

Call for entries: Sylvia Harris Citizen Design Award: Design Ignites Change; \$10,000 for social impact design project that enhances public life; applicants must be U.S.-based; deadline: August 1 - Design Ignites Change



-- We Wouldn't Mind Getting Stuck There: Airports: Airports are places where people gather voluntarily in a collective state of wanting to leave. In some cases, however, the long walk to the terminal can be a quite rewarding experience. -- Ricardo Bofill/Taller de Arquitectura; Rafael Viñoly; Foster & Partners; Santiago Calatrava; UNStudio
-- Travel guide: Marseille and Vicinity

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